

NOVA

Avon Fire Brigade Journal



Summer 1989

NOVA

Avon Fire Brigade

EDITORIAL

A MAJOR statistical review of the last five years has been carried out and it is interesting to note a rise of 19% in the number of calls dealt with by the Brigade. The number of chimney fires have fallen by 78% but all other types of call have risen, the most dramatic being special service, up by 53%. These statistics now prove what has been known for some time by those at the sharp end!

To change the subject I think a word of praise should go to the ladies section of the first aid team comprising Sharon Youlden, Helen Hemmings, reserve Jane Spearey who won the Womens' Pairs section at their very first competition. Well done.

IAN JEFFERIES
EDITOR.

Cover Photo:

Firefighters from B7 Kingswood battle through the night at Pucklechurch.

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and publishers and may not represent the official opinion of the Fire Brigade.

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MOTORING

FOREWORD

By JOHN D. MAPSTONE, Divisional Commander, "C" Division

I AM grateful to have been given an opportunity by the Editor to pen a few words for this edition of 'Nova', and without the slightest hesitation donate this platform to the Retained Service.

During the last few days, I have attended two notable events, both of which were most successful, enjoyable in their different ways, and both of which owed much to the Retained Service.

On Friday, 17th February, my wife and I spent a most enjoyable evening at Clarence House, Portishead, when we attended "C" Division Benevolent Fund Annual Dinner and Dance. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer — Mr. John Terry — presented awards to Station Representatives for their quite extraordinary achievements at fund raising during 1988; it was a delight to see so many colleagues and friends — both serving and retired — taking a very active role in National Benevolent Fund activities. The contribution made by Retained Personnel during 1988 was once again inspirational and deserves a vote of thanks from everyone in the Service.

On Saturday, 18th February, I, together with a small number of supporters (including the long-suffering!) followed our team to the District Final of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association Retained Technical Quiz at Cheltenham.

Despite appalling weather, the day's events proved to be enjoyable, thoroughly entertaining and educational. The standard of knowledge displayed by members of all teams was of an exceptionally high order and I am quite certain that any of the teams could have held their own against any competition.

Our team, comprising firefighters, young and not quite so youthful, from Station C9 Nailsea gave an extremely good performance and after a tie breaker round achieved second place to the team representing Dorset Fire Brigade; this from a total of eight competing teams. Congratulations to all team members and to those other Brigade personnel who helped along the way.

Having mentioned the achievement of Station C9 Nailsea in the Technical Quiz, I must give full credit to the Officer-in-Charge of that Station — Station Officer Ray Wyatt — who according to my records, joined Somerset Fire Brigade on the 8th August, 1951 and has held the rank of Station Officer for thirty years — a record which is probably unique in the British Fire Service.

Events such as the ones I have mentioned bear testimony to the enthusiasm of our Retained colleagues and it is a little surprising therefore that Retained recruitment remains slow. I mention here, in the hope of finding receptive ears, that vacancies do exist and anyone interested in following a very worthwhile part-time career as a Retained Firefighter should contact me to find out more about conditions, remuneration and enrolment.

I am hopeful that the recent amendments to the Appointment and Promotion Regulations will result in more applications from females — so ladies living or working within reasonable distance of our Fire Stations at Portishead, Nailsea, Chew Magna, Blagdon or Winscombe, please do not hesitate for a second longer — give me a ring on Weston-super-Mare 625121.

May I, in conclusion, wish Station Officer John Mabbett a long and happy retirement. John, another ex-Somerset Officer, joined the Service on the 1st August, 1957, and will officially retire on the 1st April, 1989. John, you will be missed! Where will the Divisional Commander now be able to send keen, newly appointed Supervisory Officers to take the raw edges off their ideology? How will Officers recently returned from College Management Courses become re-adjusted to reality without their conversations with you? I do not know.

I take some satisfaction in recording that I, together with the Deputy Divisional Commander, two Supervisory Assistant Divisional Officers and, of course, yourself, eventually managed to solve the amazing mystery of the non-appearing electric kettle!! John — thanks and keep in touch.

FOREWORD

F. G. WILTON, Chief Fire Officer

WITH the oncoming Local Government elections one is tempted to look into the infamous crystal ball and attempt some projection as to our fate in the future, particularly as Lord Ferrers has stimulated some discussion at national level. However, I am confident that despite current uncertainties, the Service in general and this Brigade in particular will respond in a positive and constructive manner and will lay a solid foundation for the future.

As a result of a decision 'not to stand' we are shortly saying farewell to Councillor Michael Moore, JP, who has been one of our 'spokespersons' on Public Protection for some while and has, indeed, spent some considerable time in the 'Chair'. During this time he has been most supportive (albeit very 'enquiring' on occasion!) and has encouraged the ongoing Five Year Strategy and Building Works Programme with enthusiasm. May we wish him well in his 'Retirement to the Bench'.

Within the Service, many milestones have been reached with retirements ranging from Fireman Dick Barton (of Derv pump fame), Wholetime, to Station Officer John Mabbett, Retained and regrettably on ill-health, Divisional Commander Brian Bowden of 'B' Division. May I thank all of those named together with the many un-named for their most valuable contributions to the effectiveness of the Brigade. Another 'milestone' of significance has been the completion of 30 years in the rank of Station Officer by Ray Wyatt, Officer in Charge of Nailsea. Whilst this does not coincide with retirement I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Ray on such service of distinction.

With summer approaching we look forward to yet another successful 'Fire Fiesta' on the Beach Lawns at Weston-super-Mare. From all accounts it will be bigger and better than the inaugural event last year and rumour has it that Peter de Savory had made Ernie Coghlan an offer he can't refuse!

With eight new Saxon pumping appliances joining the fleet shortly we shall be virtually standardised on a very efficient unit and I hope that the vagaries of 'reserves' and their stowage will be gone forever!

My continued gratitude to all of you in the Brigade for your loyal support and professionalism.



SPORTS

England v. Scotland International

THE "Big Match" was originally arranged and advertised to be played at Twerton Park, Bath, with a Civic Reception planned for afterwards.

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, namely rain, Twerton Park became water-logged.

After frantic phone calls to over twenty local clubs, a Saviour was eventually found at Bristol Aerospace Welfare Association Sports Ground with their pitch and superb "after-match" facilities, through the kind permission of B.A.W.A.

Both teams were comfortably accommodated, with England at A7 Yate and Scotland at A1 Temple, with both teams thoroughly enjoying their stay with the Brigade.

The game itself began splendidly

for England after only three minutes, with a superb goal from Jeff Simpson.

England dominated the game right from the "off", adjusting to the small pitch far quicker than the Scots. It was probably due to their frustration at being outplayed that the Scots gave away a penalty, which Ian Kerr I'm sure took great pleasure in netting.

The 30th minute saw Peter Stanoch increase England's lead with a fine goal which must have left the Scottish team wishing they hadn't left the Highlands!!

Although the Scots worked extremely hard for the rest of the first half, the England keeper Lloyd Scott kept everything safely out of the net.

The second half brought Scotland out fighting to save their pride. Eventually, in the 75th minute, they forced England defender,

Dave Gibson to score an own goal with their constant attacking pressure.

Unfortunately for Scotland, England held them off until the final whistle, with the game ending England 3 — Scotland 1.

After the match, Kenny Hibbit, Bristol Rovers Assistant Manager, selected the "men of the match" and H.M.I. Dennis Robins presented the awards to players and officials at a ceremony in the clubhouse.

BOB BAIRD — Station B

Awards:

Man of the Match:

Jim Malone (Scotland).

English Player of the Match:

Peter May.

Scottish Player of the Match:

Jim Malone.

Officials:

Bob Homes, Brian Bishop,

Dave Rowley.



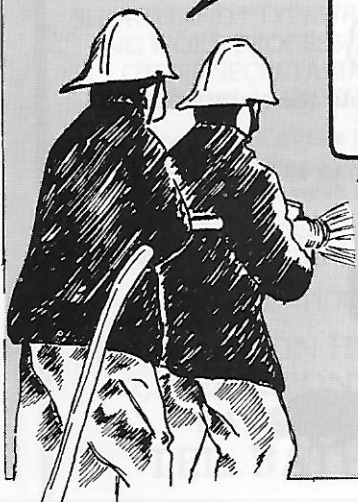
'Another determined attack thwarted by England's goalkeeper Lloyd Scott'.

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**"O.K. — I'LL
RING RIGHT AWAY".**

National Track and Field Championships

ALTHOUGH performance enhancing stimulants may well have been in evidence, the world's athletic press, en route Seoul, chose to ignore the above championships held at Gateshead International Stadium on Saturday, 10th July.

This however should not detract from the tremendous efforts of the host Brigade, Tyne and Wear, whose hospitality and friendliness were beyond compare.

The majority of athletes stayed at West Denton Way Fire Station (Divisional Headquarters). Transport was available during the evening before the event and on the day itself. The food was excellent, many thanks to Red Watch.

Most Brigades provided only a few athletes and the team competition was again dominated by the large Metropolitan Brigades, with Hampshire the eventual winners.

The crowd and atmosphere was, from start to finish, very friendly indeed.

I competed in three events: The pole vault, long jump and high hurdles.

Every competitor who reaches a final, gains points for his county, and I managed to acquire 18 points through finishing 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively. It should be said that the winner in each of these events was far ahead of the field and the rest of us, performing at a much lower level, fought out the minor placings.

What makes the event so enjoyable is everyone's willingness to compete, NO MATTER WHAT THE STANDARD. Hampshire, for example, flood nearly every event with competitors and although times and distances may not be outstanding, they still gain points.

Next year's championships are due to be held at Portsmouth and without doubt we could really do well as a County if anyone who enjoys any of the athletic events would be prepared to "HAVE A GO!"

If anyone is interested in competing, please contact me at B1, Green Watch. I will circulate details of dates and venues as soon as they are available. It may even be possible to arrange a couple of training sessions at Whitchurch Sports Centre for the more "technical" events.

To give an idea of the standards, these are the times and distances of competitors who gained points by finishing in the top eight in a selection of events.

Shot Putt: 9.98 metres.

100 metres: 11.9 seconds.

Javelin: 38.82 metres.

800 metres: 2 minutes, 41.5 seconds.

Long Jump: 5.15 metres.

1,500 metres: 4 minutes, 30 seconds.

I have a full list of results if anyone is interested.

ALISTAIR DUNLOP, Green Watch.

Kingswood Half Marathon

RED WATCH of B7 Kingswood came straight off nights to arrive at Page Park, Kingswood, in preparation to run in the annual Half Marathon held every Whitsun.

They all looked keen and raring to go at 0945 hours when the whistle blew for the line up and some ten minutes later when they strode casually to the start line. There seemed to be several vital differences between the build of stocky Firemen compared to that of the opposition who all looked long, lean . . . and ultra fit.

The mass start saw everyone disappear from the Park on the first lap of the hilly seven mile course, for an event which is given a two hour limit to qualify for a finishing time. The leaders seemed to come round remarkably quickly to begin their second lap with the fastest runners looking at something in the region of 20 minutes for the 7 miles.

The only problem for those not quite as fast meant that they had longer in the deluge of rain as the heavens opened when the first of "our" runners came into sight. LfM. Kevin Escott was the first of the Red Watch crew and has many half and several full marathons under his belt. He went through to begin his second lap looking very fit.

It was extremely handy being able to watch during the deluge from "inside" someone's house and at the same time shout encouragement to "the boys" as they went through in their own individual groups having found others who suited their pace of running.

All six runners qualified within the two hours for a timed place and received a medal. It appears that all are keen to "relive" the experience in 1989. StnO Dave Appleton now stationed at B1 Bath hopes that Fireman Stuart Hacker will leave the zimmer at home next time and do the job properly!

I'm also told that Fireman Richard Orton who found some reason for not participating in the '88 is extremely keen to make up for that in 1989. However, should enthusiasm flag for Red Watch of B7 Kingswood, a little encouragement from their colleagues during the few months leading up to the Kingswood Festival when the Half Marathon is the final event, will rekindle their keenness to compete.

Rumour has it that also in 1989 this by now extremely fit Watch are also keen to compete in the Bath Half Marathon. No doubt the result of a little persuasiveness from their Leading Fireman!!

L. DEWLAND, B7

Christmas Log Race



Former Commando Max Loach, hogging the log, pulling John Edgell and being bitten by Snapper Haskins. Steve Bagg was so far in front he had time to take the picture.

All the competing teams assembled at C1 Weston desperately trying to warm up chilled muscles as the high wind blew the drizzling rain sideways. Each team comprised three members, many in fancy dress and their aim was to negotiate a cross country route through Worlebury Woods carrying a large log.

Nine teams started each with their own method of carrying the rustic load. The first long hill sorted them out with Weston Athletic Club 'A' team taking an early lead. All the teams finished the course, some in better condition than others but everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. One of the final obstacles, a vertical post in the middle of the path leading down from the woods, caught several teams out as one member went left and the other right, leaving the log to collide with the post! After the event awards were presented to the winning teams at C1.

The results are as follows:

1. Weston Athletic Club 'A' Team - 21 Mins, 27 Sec.
(Mike Caldicott, Chris Rose, Paul Davies)
2. Athletes Foot - 21 Mins, 32 Secs.
(Kevin Walker, Roger Hart, Geoff Field)
3. Speedwell Fire Station - 23 Mins, 35 Secs.
(Mike Collins, Nick Randall, John Brown's Body!)
4. Chocolate Log Trio (Weston RFC)
- 24 Mins, 05 Secs.
(Mark Philip, Simon Tottle, Roger Coles)
5. Weston Athletic Club 'B' Team - 26 Mins, 29 Secs.
(Barry Collins, Steve Baxter, Hywell Davis)
6. Hillbillies (C Div FP) - 26 Mins, 52 Secs.
(Max Loach, John Edgell, Steve Bagg)
7. Wyvern Loggers - 27 Mins, 45 Secs.
(Chris Tinney, John Davis, N Baker)
8. Boot Necks - 28 Mins, 33 Secs.
(Phil Mouinsmead, Andy Smith, Darren Fulcher)
9. Roy Orbison Memorial team - 35 Mins, 30 Secs.
(Steve Wilson, Mark Hodder, Gareth Williams)

Stan Tingle C1

SKITTLES SECTION Brigade Skittles Team



At the end of last season our team finished a magnificent third place in the league, just forced by one point into that position by 'R A F A' from Filton. The league was won by 'The Devons' in a close finish with 43 points against our 38 points after we won 19 of our 28 matches.

The highest score of 45 was produced by Bob Davis and the lowest of 16 by Ian White (A2). Three players tied for the most ducks totalling three each but Ian White, who scored two in one match, won

that trophy along with the lowest score. It is hard to believe he finished with an average score of 29.85 from twenty games. The highest average was produced by Bill Lewis with 32.17 who scored 10 nines during the season and only one duck.

Trophies for these milestones in the history of the team were presented by the Chief Fire Officer at the annual presentation evening held at Limpley Stoke Hotel. Our guests for the evening were from the

'Dunkirk Veterans Association' team who joined in the banter during speech time which followed an excellent meal.

Unlike last year when the pool table was the centre of the evening's entertainment, this year the floor was cleared and using pool balls and bar towels as mats, Jack High, bouts were played into the small hours.

Knocker White - Team Secretary

Fire Brigade Skittles Knockout Competition



The competition started in October 1988 with twenty teams entered from all corners of the brigade including the brigade pensioners. A7 Yate were too late last year to

enter so they had the first application registered this time but unfortunately they hardly had time to blink as they were out in the first round. F Div Bristol were quickly dispatched by finalists A3 Green,

and A3 White, who fielded a mens and ladies side, both went out with shrapnel wounds.

S Div took out B1 Bath in a close match played with great spirit only to be beaten by Southmead. That team from the pensioners, well they made it to the semi finals, which proves experience counts and a zimmer can steady the hand. Mac Aston, their star player took the trophy for the highest score with 48. The final took place at the 'Beehive' between B6 White and A3 Green, which proved a tremendous battle with B6 winning with a very close finish.

The prizes were sponsored by Courages Brewery supplying the winners with a barrel of beer and the runners up with a crate of cans.

During the competition £125 was raised and a cheque was presented to the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund at the end of the evening.

Knocker White.

The winning team from B6 White with a donation for the Benevolent Fund collected during the competition.

KNOCKER WHITE

LADIES' SECTION

Valuable Time Saving

Most working women after a full day return home to start their second job of running the household. Families often expect her to be the fountain of all knowledge, able to answer the children's maths homework or devise a way of removing spiders from the bath without touching them.

But sometimes more major problems arise such as the original purchase or replacement of household appliances or equipment. If there is a man in the house, the job is usually given to him as it may be technical!!! As we use the items, really we should choose them, but how do we make our choice? I used to spend hours going around stores looking at prices and styles but not really knowing any technical things and relying on the sales-person to advise me.

That has now changed and I have discovered "WHICH" reports. A few minutes spent in the comfort of your local library can give you all the information you need on most domestic purchases. I choose the recommended "Best Buy" and provided it is a price I can afford and, from the picture, looks right, I telephone around for the best price.

I recently purchased a microwave oven and from start to finish it took only three quarters of an hour; I saved a lot of time being able to use an out-of-town discount store.

Many of my friends think the system impersonal but I never found enjoyment wandering around town on a Saturday afternoon with my husband getting more and more irritable.

I am now looking for a similar system for hats and shoes, any suggestions?

Elsie, H.Q.

CACFOA National Technical Quiz



EACH year the CACFOA National Technical Quiz alternates between Wholtime and Retained personnel, and this year it was the turn of the Retained to do battle.

The competition starts with a Brigade knockout to determine a team to represent its Brigade in a district round. Avon, along with Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester, Somerset, Wiltshire, form number 6 District. Five Districts form the Southern Region, and the winners of each district compete against each other to find a regional winner. That team proceeds into the final, against the Northern Region finalist, held each year at the Fire Service College.

This year teams from A6 Thornbury and C9 Nailsea entered but at the last moment A6 Thornbury had to withdraw, leaving C9 Nailsea a clear run into the district round held at Cheltenham.

Determined to maintain the high standard expected from Avon, team members LFM Paul Henley and FM Aubrey Fudge, Graeme Keel, Ron Hardwidge and Roy Hutton entered into serious training under the watchful eye of Phil Harwood (Brigade Control) an ex-C9 Fireman. The training followed a plan that included practice competitions against 'C' Division Wholtime stations, which Station Officer Ray Wyatt claimed prevented the team from 'peaking too early'.

On 18th February, the team and supporters travelled to Cheltenham for the event which proved very entertaining and closely fought. In the final round there was tremendous excitement as Avon began to catch the eventual winners, Dorset, just failing in the attempt but matching Devon in joint second place. A tiebreak round ensued and the men from Nailsea 'peaked' beating Devon by 5 points and confirming their second place overall. This was a very commendable effort by the team reflecting great credit to the Brigade.

Chief Fire Officer Wilton had the honour of presenting the prizes; the men from Nailsea received theirs with smiling faces. During the buffet a rather humorous 'post mortem' took place in which all the answers were put into perspective by the team. They returned to their busy two pump Station that evening having thoroughly enjoyed themselves and still smiling.

The final score: DORSET 30; AVON 26; DEVON 26. Tiebreak round: AVON 12; DEVON 7.

The proud team from Nailsea with competition adjudicators. (Left to right) C.F.O. Johnson (Oxfordshire), FM Hutton, FM Hardwidge, FM Keel, LFM Henley, FM Fudge, C.F.O. Williams (South Glam.).

NOVA

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BENEVOLENT FUND

I am pleased to report a very successful year.

Our Expenditure increased this year by 14%, and the balance sheet shows how the money was distributed.

Each year the number of Hospital Parcels and Christmas Hampers increases, also this year we have sent 29 families on Convalescent Rest.

The Income over the year increased by 26% over monies raised last year with five stations raising over £2,000 each and four stations over £1,000 each. The largest increase came through donations via the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, £5,000 more than the previous year. As you will see on the appendix attached the fund was left a Legacy by Florence Annie May Haydon (Deceased) £2,217.99p., also a large donation from the Chairman's Charity Fund, Woodspring District Council £1,506.05p.

It becomes increasingly difficult to find new and novel ways to raise funds and then to motivate people to put them into action. Please support your station reps.

Don't forget smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are now on sale at Headquarters, proceeds from sales go to the fund.

To all who assisted in any way over the past year — THANK YOU.

JOHN DOWSE,

Hon. Brigade Treasurer.

Benevolent Fund at Work



I DON'T expect anyone will remember Sid Newton who served 1939—1946 as Section Leader based at Henleaze? There might be one or two of our retired members but no others.

In February of 1987 Sid suffered a stroke, which left him paralysed down his left side and because he lived in a first floor flat, when he returned from his six month stay in hospital, he became a prisoner in his own home. Sid and his wife Louisa (aged 86 and 83 respectively) had a regular visitor from the Old Comrades' Association, 'Gillie' Dawes, who at the next Old Comrades' meeting, conveyed the news to Monty Britton, the Chairman of 'A' Division

Benevolent Council. The case was discussed at the next 'A' Division meeting and as Sid lives on A2's ground, as Station Representative, I was asked to compile a report.

After introducing myself and negotiating the preliminary ramble, it was obvious that Sid and his wife were going to be at the mercy of elderly friends and neighbours every time they needed to leave their flat for whatever reason. The solution was simple — a chair lift. This, and all the relevant details, I reported back to 'A' Division Council and it was ratified by them. The Group Treasurer awarded Sid a hardship grant towards the cost of purchasing a chairlift and I was able to present a cheque for £600 to Mrs. Newton. This happily funded the purchase of a secondhand lift which was installed by a local charity for the cost of materials only.

Sid is no longer trapped in his flat and thanks to the facility provided by the Benevolent Fund, is able to maintain some independence in his life. Just because you may have left the service it does not mean you have been forgotten, if you or any of your past or present colleagues are in genuine need or distress, contact your Representative. All cases receive sympathetic consideration.

YOUR FUND WORKS FOR YOU.

CHRIS CUMMINGS, A2

COUNTY OF AVON FIRE BRIGADE

FIRE SERVICE NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR 1988

EXPENDITURE:	'A'	'B'	'C'	TOTAL
HOSPITAL PARCELS	119.96	122.02	44.63	286.61
WREATH	—	—	10.00	10.00
CHRISTMAS HAMPERs	727.83	1,187.14	1,208.13	3,123.10
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN	150.00	300.00	150.00	600.00
WIDOWS ALLOWANCES	2,100.00	900.00	600.00	3,600.00
ORPHANS & EDUCATION	617.50	660.00	158.00	1,435.50
HARDSHIP GRANTS	100.00	156.00	150.00	406.00
DEATH GRANTS	500.00	250.00	750.00	1,500.00
PROLONGED SICKNESS	250.00	500.00	—	750.00
	<u>4,565.29</u>	<u>4,075.16</u>	<u>3,070.76</u>	<u>£11,711.21</u>

CONVALESCENT CASES: —	'A' DIV.	15
	'B' DIV.	6
	'C' DIV.	8
		<u>29</u>

INCOME:—	1988	1987
'A' DIVISION	6,532.26	6,749.08
'B' DIVISION	7,356.78	8,236.82
'C' DIVISION	10,606.93	8,022.19
DONATIONS VIA C.F.O. & TREASURER	6,613.77	1,512.92
DONATION VIA NATIONAL CELIA BANHAM CHRISTIE	500.00	500.00
	<u>£31,609.74</u>	<u>£25,021.01</u>

STATION CONTRIBUTIONS

STATION C3 PORTISHEAD	£2,657.40	STATION C10 YATTON	557.42
STATION B1 BATH	2,474.30	STATION B6 SPEEDWELL	437.80
STATION A7 YATE	2,277.90	STATION A3 AVONMOUTH	431.16
STATION C7 BLAGDON	2,171.33	STATION 'B' DIV. H.Q.	426.14
STATION B3 PAULTON	2,013.40	STATION B4 BRISLINGTON	380.50
STATION C2 CLEVEDON	1,761.25	STATION B6 RADSTOCK	371.81
STATION A1 TEMPLE	1,695.02	STATION C6 CHEW MAGNA	254.75
STATION C4 PILL	1,296.93	BANWELL	232.00
STATION A6 THORNBURY	1,127.17	STATION C5 BEDMINSTER	226.39
STATION B7 KINGSWOOD	896.18	STATION A2 SOUTHMEAD	193.67
STATION B5 KEYNSHAM	816.77	STATION A5 PATCHWAY	138.64
STATION C1		STATION 'C' DIV. H.Q.	68.60
WESTON SUPER MARE	743.71	STATION C9 NAILSEA	55.15
STATION C8 WINSCOMBE	566.25	WRINGTON	15.75

DONATIONS VIA C.F.O. AND TREASURER

LEGACY RE: FLORENCE ANNIE MAY HAYDON (Deceased)	2,217.99
CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY FUND, WOODSPRING DISTRICT COUNCIL	1,506.05
BIKING VIKINGS (GREEN WATCH STN. B7)	500.00
BRISTOL CANOE CLUB	500.00
BRISTOL CREST HOTEL, STAFF SOCIAL FUND	400.00
RECRUITS COURSE 1/1988	266.60
SPONSORED JOG—BOXING DAY 1987	200.00
SEATON SANDS LTD. (DESK DIARIES)	200.00
COUNTY OF AVON F.B. PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION	100.00
SEATON SANDS LTD. (POCKET DIARIES)	100.00
Mr. SMITH, THE COACH HOUSE	100.00
Mr. R. J. WAIT, OBE	50.00
HARTNELL, TAYLOR & COOK (HALIFAX SW LTD.)	50.00
Mr. C. SEDGMAN	30.00
Dr. & Mrs. D. DICKSON	25.00
J. M. STEPHENS	25.00
Mr. GOODFIELD	25.00
S W E B	25.00
THORNBURY ROUND TABLE	25.00
MESSRS. R. L. STALEY & SONS	20.00
NME HOSPITAL (UK) LTD, THE GLEN	20.00
HEADQUARTERS CLUB	15.00
B.N.W.C.A. LUNCHEON CLUB	10.00
LAURIE ROACH	10.00
CHARLOTTE WORT	10.00
32nd BRISTOL SCOUT GROUP	10.00
Mr. BRISTOW—3 at £10 + 1 at £5 Donations	35.00
Mr. PRATTEN	10.00
PORTAVON MARINA CRUISING CLUB	10.00
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH	10.00
WANSDYKE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP ASSOCIATION	10.00
MANGOTSFIELD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	10.00
Mr. HUGH RICKS	10.00
Mr. F. RIVERS—3 Donations	22.13
C & M PALMER	5.00
Mr. S. MACK	5.00
Mrs. G. WORTHY	5.00
AVON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (BRISTOL BRANCH)	5.00
Mrs. WAKHAM	5.00
Mrs. J. M. PRAGGATT	5.00
Miss DIANA FERGUSON	5.00
FRIENDS OF HENBURY SCHOOL	5.00
Mr. & Mrs. B. GARDINER	5.00
Mrs. P. M. BROWN	5.00
YATTON OLD AGE PENSIONERS	5.00
Mr. CLEVER	1.00

£6,613.77

DONATION VIA LITTLEHAMPTON—CELIA BANHAM CHRISTIE £500.00

RETIREMENTS

JOHN MABBETT

STATION OFFICER John Mabbett of C8 Winscombe has retired after 32 years service. He has, for the last 15 years been the Officer in Charge and in that time seen many changes.

During a short speech at his retirement evening held at C1, and attended by many, he told everyone of his sadness that after so many years he had rescued cows from slurry pits, sheep from railings and bulls from ditches, but never a maiden from a window.

There is however one thing that John will be remembered for apart from the years of loyal service, that was his unique style of office management, he was the man who obtained a new kettle from brigade stores within five years.

Now John has left the brigade 'C' division will never be quite the same.



The Chief Officers presented mementos to John Mabbett on his retirement and Ray Wyatt, accompanied by his wife Lily, after 30 years service as a Station Officer.

Record Breaker at Nailsea

HAS Ray Wyatt of C9 Nailsea set a record?

This is the question being asked as Ray celebrated 30 years as a Station officer. He received a memento from the Chief Officer to mark the occasion at a celebration held at C1 Weston.

JOHN LAWES RETIRES

IN September, 1988 we saw the retirement of John Lawes after 29 years service.

When he left school John was apprenticed to an electrical contractor, who amongst other things, was the main agent for A.F.A. and after serving his time, John travelled the south-west installing fire alarms. It must have been whilst installing indicator panels at



JOHN LAWES

Bridewell and Speedwell Fire Stations that he was inspired to join the Brigade.

After basic training at Speedwell, he served as Fireman and Leading Fireman at that Station before moving as Sub. Officer to Bedminster. He considers himself fortunate as he left the Station two days before the great flood of '68 when so few lost so much.

In such a long career many things happen and when I asked what incident lingered in his memory, it was not lives saved or huge fires fought, but the rescue of seven cows from a slurry pit. One cow had a brainstorm and jumped back in; after it was rescued a second time it then attacked John's car denting its wing, door and smashing the beacon. The comprehensive insurance he thought it had, however, did not cover attack by lunatic cows and the cost of repair was covered by his own pocket.

Ever since his days in National Service when he first set eyes on the River Nile, he has had a desire to

travel its length. That ambition is first on the list to be fulfilled when along with his wife 'Mo' he visits all the places which were 'out of bounds' forty years ago.

John will continue with his hobbies of sailing, dancing and zooming around on his Honda Four, and spend more time with his children Stephen, Anne and Keith.

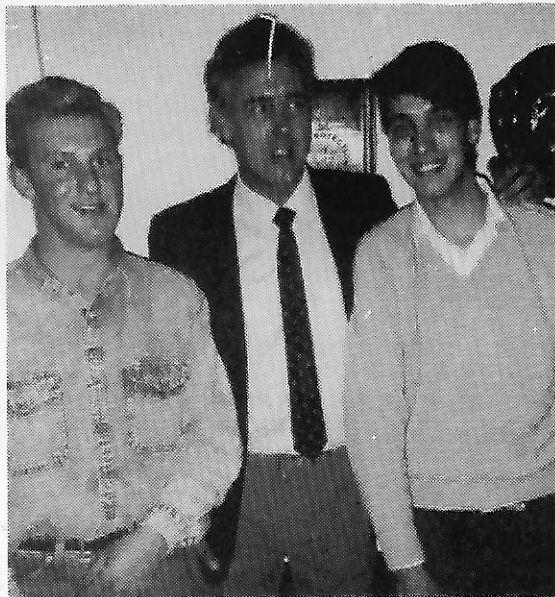
ADRIAN BOYCE RETIRES

ON Friday, 6th January, 1989 Blue Watch, A5 Patchway, said goodbye to Adrian Boyce who retired after 25 years' service. His colleagues gave him a presentation axe to kindle fond memories of his service and really useful items in the form of a tankard and re-chargeable torch. An oily rag and tin of hand cleaner were probably the most useful gifts of all those presented.

Josey White of Bristol Sugar Craft Centre produced a unique cake complete with a spanner and tin of Swarfega made of icing sugar; it was such a work of art Adrian refused to cut it and took it home.

A laboratory assistant before joining the Brigade, Adrian served at A3 Avonmouth, transferring to A5 Patchway in 1975. His main claim to fame in the annals of Fire Brigade history, and one that he wishes to forget, is when during an open day rescue demonstration at A5 he drove a car through scenery depicting a house and into the tower; not content with that he went on and collided with his own car parked nearby.

A large number of colleagues and friends attended the function which no doubt will remain in his memory.



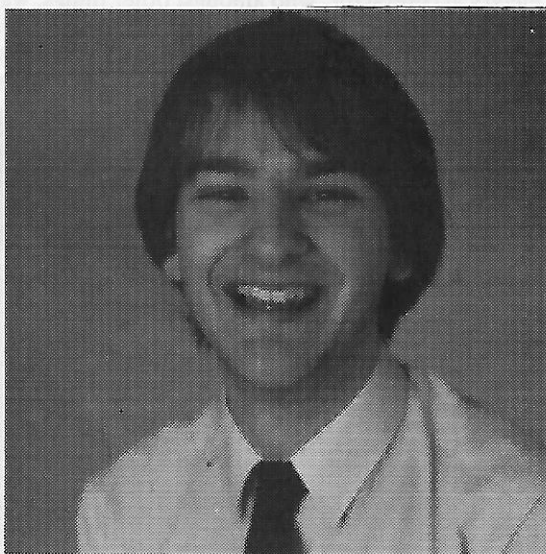
ADRIAN BOYCE



BETTY SHAW: Assistant Chief Officer's Secretary.

Previous occupation: Secretary to Pensions Manager, Burton Group.

Interests and Hobbies: Music, cooking, cinema enthusiast, now has passion for flying and foreign travel after first adventure abroad five years ago.



IAN BROWN: Clerk/Typist, Supplies Dept.

Previous occupation: Clerical Assistant, Treasury Dept., Avon County Council.

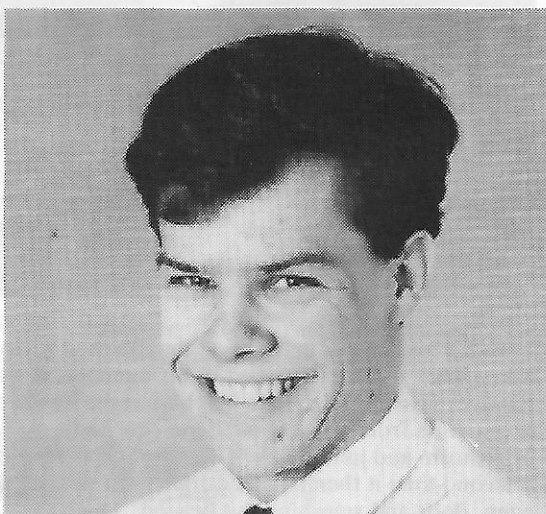
Interests and Hobbies: Motor cycling, rebuilding classic Japanese motor cycles, video horror/sci fi buff, indoor sports enthusiast.



LYNN WESTON: Common Services Supervisor.

Previous occupation: Assistant Supervisor, Admin and Legal Dept, Avon County Council.

Interests and Hobbies: Riding and looking after her own horse, active pony club committee member, interested in the protection of bridleways, gardening and antique fairs.



DARREN MARSHALL: Draughtsman, Fire Protection & Planning Dept.

Previous occupation: Draughtsman, ARC (Southern).

Interests and hobbies: Keen sportsman both cycling and swimming, interested in dryslope skiing.

FACES



JULIA GARA: Finance Assistant
Finance Dept.

Previous occupation: Admin. Assistant,
Avon Education Dept.

Interest and hobbies: Motoring, swimming
and foreign travel.



RACHEL DEANE: Clerical Assistant,
Fire Protection and Planning Administration.

Previous occupation: Secretary to Chartered Loss
Adjuster.

Interests and hobbies: Foreign travel, skiing,
looking after her many pets, lapsed jogger.



JENNY HARRIES: Typist, Fire Protection
and Planning (Bristol Office).

Previous occupation: Typist, Admin. & Legal Dept.,
Avon County Council.

Interests and hobbies: Knitting, photography,
motoring, foreign travel, T.V., soap buff and
looking after her dog.



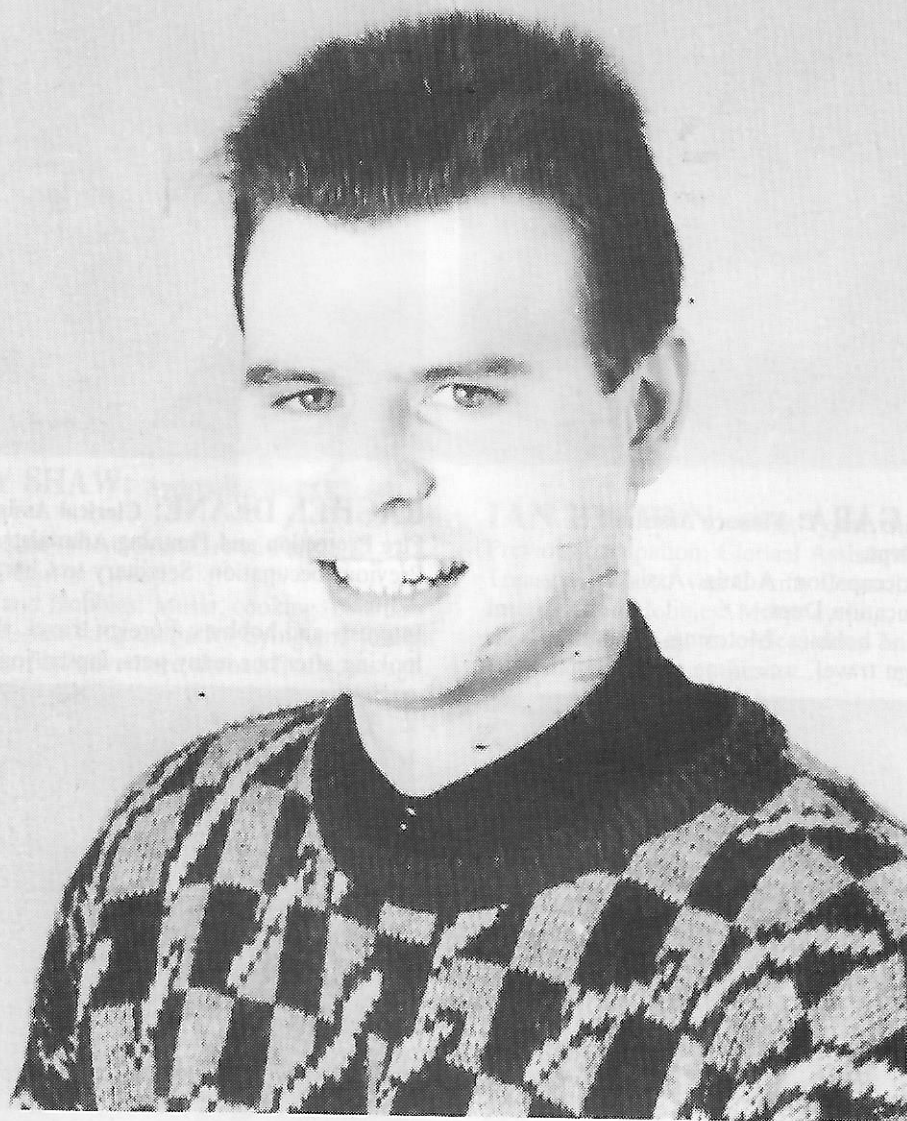
NATALIE MUIR: Clerk/Typist,
Establishments Dept.

Previous occupation: Clerk/typist General Hospital.

Interests and hobbies: Swimming, badminton,
foreign travel, cooking, T.V. soaps, trying to keep
up with ever changing word processors.

NEW FACES

(Continued)



JEFF MORRIS: Storekeeper/Clerk Transport Dept.
Previous occupation: Storekeeper/Clerk Strachan Henshaw.
Interests and hobbies: Football (St. Nicholas Wanderers),
darts (Great Engineer), photography, D.I.Y.

RETAINED PROMOTIONS



Station Officer DONALD BEVAN

SUB OFFICER Donald Bevan has been promoted to Station Officer and is now in charge of B3 Paulton. His promotion follows the sad death of Station Officer Terry Coles.

Donald Bevan, aged 51, of Specklemead, Paulton, first joined the Fire Brigade in 1963, being promoted to Leading Fireman in 1972 and Sub Officer in 1981. He and his wife, Janet, have two married daughters, Carolyne and Lorraine. Donald followed his father, Charles, now aged 86, into the Brigade.

Station Officer Bevan is employed as a Supervisor at Mirage Inks Ltd., of Radstock, and in what spare time he had left pursues a passionate hobby of restoring classic cars.



Sub Officer CEDRIC BROWN

LEADING Fireman Cedric Brown has been promoted to Sub Officer and is now in charge of B2 Radstock.

Cedric Brown, aged 53, of Welton Road, Radstock, like so many Retained firefighters, was 'persuaded' in 1970 by other firefighters at the time, into joining the Brigade. He was promoted to Leading Fireman in 1976.

Cedric and his wife Ann, who works very hard as a cleaner at the Fire Station, have two sons, Steven aged 27 and Gary aged 25.

Sub Officer Brown has been employed for many years by building contractors Plummer and Hockey Ltd. of Radstock as a Supervisor. He has many hobbies including D-I-Y, woodworking and snooker.

30 Years and still going Strong



Derek surrounded by his colleagues.

FOR Leading Fireman Derek Godfrey it was just another drill night as he supervised a knots and lines session with firefighters from C2 Clevedon but behind the scene members of his family and friends were creeping into the station ready for a surprise greeting at the end of the evening.

This was done when StnO Peter Till approached with a 'red book' which just like 'This Is Your Life' chronicled Derek's service. Divisional Commander John Mapstone, accompanied by his wife, Jeanette, also gave a few words of recognition to this milestone in Derek's career and presented him with a bronze statue to mark the occasion.

Derek, aged 58, and a self-employed builder, joined the Somerset Brigade in 1958 giving valuable service to C2 Clevedon ever since. He has been a regular member of the station quiz team and pump competition team.

He has been married for 36 years to Elaine and their two children, Joanne and Robert, have given them three grandchildren. The whole family, his friends and colleagues celebrated the evening in style in the station's new social club.

The Great Australian Exercise Bike Ride in aid of Muscular Dystrophy

AT 1200 hours on 2nd September, 1988, 60 men and women set out from Shireway Community Centre, Yate, to pedal the equivalent distance from England to Australia on exercise bikes in 32 hours.

They were in 20 teams with three to a team and the 20 bikes were kept pedalling continuously throughout.

About half of those that took part in this event were Avon firemen and their wives and families and I would like to thank them all for their support over the last few years.

Once again we had a successful event and we raised £5,800, of which £2,400 went on wheelchairs to three brothers who all suffer from Muscular Dystrophy. Also two wheelchairs went to sufferers at Courtlands School, Knowle, Bristol. The remaining £3,400 went to research into this disease.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brigade personnel and civilian staff who, over the past few years, have sponsored various personnel that have taken part in our events. In the last four years we have raised over £20,000 for Muscular Dystrophy.

PETE LIDDINGTON
Green Watch, B7 Kingswood



Chief Officer teaching Tom the controls.



Where are they Now?

I HAVE heard it said old firefighters don't retire, they just stop going to fire stations so often. Therefore whilst carrying out research on members of the old Bristol Fire Brigade, I had to visit one of our retired colleagues at her home.

Betty Peet, one of our ex-control members and quite an institution in the annals of the old Bristol Brigade, now lives in a comfortable flat in Keynsham. She has now been retired years, enjoys good health and looks great.

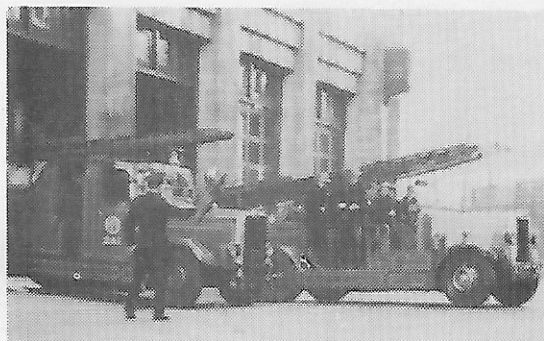




While studying pictures from Betty's collection, I realised why all drivers of early Leyland pumps had high pitched voices.



and how the women firefighters of the day, taking tea, were prepared for a 'knees up' by carrying music and make-up cases with them at all times!



How times have changed from those war years and the last days of Bridewell fire station, Bristol, when I stood with a flag, the traffic was so bad you were a brave man to venture from the pavement, let alone stand with your back to the oncoming vehicles.

I am sure there must be amongst our retired members from Bath and Weston-Super-Mere, photographs of those stations in bygone years, just contact me and those pictures can be copied so they need not leave your possession. Better still would be a history of one of the older stations, such as C2 Clevedon, so come on, any budding historians, you write it, I'll print it.

BOOK REVIEW



IT was a new experience for me when I was given a book to review for our journal. The massive 656 page publication is the second volume of *'THE BLITZ THEN AND NOW'* edited by Winston Ramsey and is a blow-by-blow account describing daily events of the Blitz between September 1940 and May 1941.

Winston Ramsey estimates a combined total of more than 50 years have been spent by his authors and historians in completing the work. The amount of detail is amazing, every German aircraft brought down over the United Kingdom between September 1940 and May 1941 is listed together with details of its crew and their fate. Frequent extracts are included from the diary of Robert Gotz, an 18 year old serving in the Luftwaffe as an air gunner/navigator, which provide a balancing viewpoint into the feelings and fears experienced by the men of the other side on their nightly excursions over Britain.

The hallmark of 'After the Battle' publications is the comparison photographs of then and now and the detailed daily record is complemented with over twenty features and articles covering every aspect of

life during the Blitz in towns and cities throughout the country.

There are many pages of local interest covering raids on Bristol, Avonmouth, Bath and Weston-super-Mare, with photographs of German aircrew graves in Greenbank Cemetery, buried after their aircraft crashed in the grounds of Manor Park Hospital.

Members of my own family were killed while in a shelter in Boverie Street, Easton, Bristol on Sunday night, March 16th, 1941 and when I turned to page 484 low and behold, a photograph of Easton Road showing the damage caused by the same bomb. The target should have been Bristol Docks but because of low cloud it was identified by radio methods which were not accurate and many crews used searchlight activity as an indication that they were over the city, hence so many bombs dropped in residential areas.

The book is of excellent quality and can be used either for reference or as entertainment, the latter giving many hours of fascinating reading for anyone interested in local or military history.

CASH WITH COMPASSION

The Bereavement Fund nears its Golden Jubilee

A dramatic Origin

Flares over the city heralded yet another air raid on Bristol in December 1940. Incendiary bombs and high explosives soon began dropping and a large house at the junction of Whiteladies Road and Westfield Park was among the first buildings in the Redland district to be set ablaze.

A trailer pump unit from C1 Redland (behind the police station in Lower Redland Road) responded to the fire call, with Acting Leading Fireman George Perry in charge. Arriving at the fire, bystanders reported that elderly ladies were trapped within the now fiercely burning building. Realising that lives were in danger, George, without hesitation, dashed into the building but minutes later the upper floors of the house collapsed.

This was the first fatality on 'C' Division. George Perry's death brought sorrow and sadness, particularly as he was a most popular person with a fine sense of humour and strong character. The immediate reaction of everyone who knew him was to do something to help and show sympathy to his widow, so a collection of one shilling per head was organised throughout the Division and given to Mrs Perry.

Bristol's Police Brigade

It should be mentioned here that in the early days of the war the Auxiliary Fire Service came under the jurisdiction of the chief Constable. Bristol Fire Brigade was a Police Brigade, and most of the fire stations in the city had a

'regular fireman' appointed in charge - generally a fire constable or sergeant - according to the size of the fire station and the area covered. Everyone was subject to police discipline, and when it became known that a 'totally unauthorised' collection had been taken at Redland, Fireman G. Bennett was sent for by chief Inspector J.Y. Kirkup and severely reprimanded. The following week Fireman Bennett was recalled to Bridewell Headquarters and told that it was an excellent scheme (bearing in mind the very real possibility that many more deaths would occur due to enemy action) and it would be adopted throughout the three Bristol Divisions!

Thus the Bristol constabulary Auxiliary Fire Service Bereavement Fund came into being as a practical expression of sympathy, and many others deaths followed George Perry's when air raid action intensified.

Now came the National Fire Service

The Auxiliary Fire Service had over 3,000 personnel in the Bristol area, whole and part time. As the war went on the Home Office decided to nationalise the fire brigades throughout the country, and the National Fire Service then came into being. Cap badges and tunic badges were changed from AFS to NFS, and new ranks were initiated - Leading Fireman, patrol Officer, Company Officer, Senior Company Officer, Column Officer,

Divisional Officer and Fire Force Commander (with sometimes Assistants and Deputies in the latter). Higher ranks, such as Chief Regional Fire Officers and Fire Service Inspectors, were appointed by the Home Office.

Standardization of appliances and ranks throughout the country enabled brigades to back up one another with reinforcements, which could then be dispatched with all speed when air raids struck a particular town, city or docks area. Many Bristol firefighters served in London, Coventry, Plymouth, Bath, Birmingham and Pembroke Dock.

Fire fighting can be a very dangerous job. Amazingly, considering the large number of firefighters working on huge incidents throughout the city, tackling whole ranks of houses, industrial premises and warehouses during the raids, the number of deaths was remarkably small.

Immediate help to bereaved families

The Bereavement Fund has paid out thousands of pounds to many fireman's widows whose husbands have died while on duty, as well as to members who have died from natural causes, such as heart attacks or cancer. The Fund originated as a practical expression of sympathy, although looked at merely as an insurance it is a bargain. No regular premiums are payable and levies are only collected when the death of a member of the County of Avon

Fire Brigade Bereavement Fund occurs, which means that a levy is then due from each member to replace the 'Kitty'.

Contribution Changes

The amount of the levy has varied over the years, from the original 1/- per head in 1941 to 2/- from 1950. Then in 1975 the levy became 25p in the new money and in 1979 was doubled to 50p.

April 1989 was the month for another important change in the Fund. It is now considered that 50p is no longer a realistic figure and the result of a vote taken by Station Representatives among members showed a unanimous decision to increase the levy to £1. This will mean that a sum of over £800 will be available for the next-of-kin when the next death occurs (a revised set of rules incorporating this change have been distributed). Such a sum would be useful towards funeral expenses.

Changes of title

Throughout its history this charity has been variously known as: Bristol Constabulary Auxiliary Fire Service Bereavement Fund (1941) Bristol Fire Service Bereavement Fund (1943) Bristol National Fire Service Bereavement Fund (1945) Sub Area 'A' Death Levy Fund (1946) Bristol Fire Brigade and Ambulance Bereavement Fund (1950) Bristol Fire Brigade Bereavement Fund (1952) and when the Bristol Brigade reverted to local authority control, the present title, County of Avon Fire Brigade Bereavement Fund. Altogether seven name changes.

How the Fund operates

Traditionally, the Chief Officer has always been Chairman of the Fund, and Mr J.Y. Kirkup in 1941 was the first. Our present Chief officer, Frank Wilton, takes a keen interest in the Bereavement Fund and fully endorses the newest levy increase

which is now part and parcel of the rules. All levies collected are paid into the Fund's deposit account, and any interest occurring is used for expenses (chiefly postage, stationery and telephone) which are kept to a minimum. The Brigade internal mail service is used whenever possible.

Administration of the Bereavement Fund is entirely voluntary. The present hon secretary and treasurer is Geoff Bennett, now retired, who still keeps the Fund ticking over but springs into action directly a death is notified. His proud boast is that every next-of-kin has been paid out in cash within a day or two after the death, and invariably this money is a godsend to the family. Instances have occurred where money is tied up until probate is obtained and there is sometimes no joint bank account with husband and wife. Quite apart from the practicalities, it's the thought that every member has contributed that brings tears to the recipient's eyes. "Paying out can be a very emotional experience", Geoff says.

Think for a moment of your Station or Establishment Representative whose voluntary task is to collect levies and send them in to the hon treasurer. Members could make his or her job much easier if they made a point of handing in money immediately they read the circular (which should always be prominently displayed on the notice board!) saying that a member has died - and to have the right amount, now a £1 coin.

A record to be proud of

Sixty-five payments have been made by the Fund since its inception, and it will be the Bereavement Fund's Golden Jubilee in 1990. It's interesting to note that the average pay out between 1946 and 1971 (when the levy was 2/- in old money) averaged £30 to £40, but of course such amounts of money were considered much greater value then than today. A Chief Officer

and a Fire Force Commander have been among the members who have died, although of course no distinction is made because of rank - civilian staff and officers in County of Avon Fire brigade all receive the amount in the 'Kitty' for their next-of-kin, which varies from year to year according to the number of members on the books.

In conclusion, Geoff Bennett would like to thank the Fund's Station Reps who do an excellent job. If they, and indeed every member of the Bereavement Fund, could see the way their practical expression of sympathy is received by widows, parents, girl friends and widowers who are named as next-of-kin on the enrolment form, they would realise what a valuable and worthwhile charity they support. When the sum of money is handed to the next-of-kin, it's always explained that the cash comes from every member of the Fund and almost everyone in the Brigade. Tears of gratitude and thankfulness invariably follow. It's the kindness behind the gift that is uppermost in the recipient's mind and the many letters of thanks received testify to these sentiments. It's one very practical way we can all help to soften the blow of bereavement.



GEOFF BENNETT, in N.F.S. uniform, Secretary and Treasurer of the Bereavement Fund since its inception.

(Article submitted for publication under
'Non-de-plume' "MIRAGE").

Cynics Corner

Now that the post-assessment counselling for Station Officer is over, those whose place in the pecking order will have long been preceded by their retirement are busy trying to redeem their shattered hopes in the face of a doomed destiny. It is rumoured that one has booked an appointment with a Harley Street optician to have the colour of his eyes changed whilst another is desperately researching genetic engineering in the fervent hope of finding the right clone. Whilst these wretched people forlornly wait for the beckoning finger from On High as the top of the list grows tantalisingly closer to their name their aspirations are dashed once more on hearing that another year's assessment applicants have been sorted, graded and quality controlled and their name is once more relegated to the bottom of the table.

What ever happened to the old-fashioned interviews which realised the hopes of the assessors!

☆☆☆

THERE was a time when the fire brigade was run by firemen save for a few ex AFS or NFS geriatric ladies who operated the typewriters of the same vintage and some ex-firemen who retired during the reign of King George V only to embark on a new career as quartermasters or chauffeurs to the Chief Officer at the age of 60 or more. Those 'old timers' were proud to remain part of the family with which they had grown up. An A/20 in those days was as rare as a white rhino in Chew Valley lake. Before the great paper chase of today, the trusted old 'Report Form' served a multitude of uses, the most poignant of which was the one required of a fireman (in a shaky hand) who knew that at best, it was the first step towards a good kick in the pants for something.

Whether the staff justified the paper, or the paper justifies the staff, is not clear but this new army of non-uniformed 'firemen' are a different breed from yesteryear. Pleasant enough chaps and girls they may be but one shudders at the fate of the olden day storekeepers who had to break the news to the officer in charge of a station that he was unable to

supply a basic requisite for his station. It is now a gratuitous favour to receive one's demands (or pleas) and if the quantity hasn't been slashed in half, you must be returning something in exchange, or doing a 'wheelie dealie'.

Everyone of officer rank must by now have played the grown-up version of musical chairs — it's called 'career progression'. The main variation on the children's version of the game is that desks are removed instead of chairs! If everyone is not sitting at a desk when the dulcet tones of the Captain has stopped, then you are out of the game and condemned to that rank. You can also be disqualified for refusing to play. Bonus marks can be gained if the desk with which you end up is either too large, too small, too busy, too boring or too much to handle — **providing** these emotions are not revealed.

Initiative is the order of the day and bonus marks have been awarded to those who take their desks with them or manoeuvre to remain in the company of the same desk for two years or more. The most valued prize however, is the gold medal which is priceless in prestige and carries significant financial spin-offs. It can only be won by the person who has occupied the most desks for the least amount of time and can prove on interrogation that he knows nothing about everything. At all times during the game however, the Captain has the sole discretion to award the Captain's Gold Medal for particularly outstanding examples of social finesse, meritorious platitudes, subservience or extrovert behavioural patterns.

Anyone wishing to play should apply on Admin. 4 (a).

☆☆☆

Even before the ink is dry on the £16,000 cheque to pay for the new appliance room floor at B1, the utterings have been heard in the council chamber that it seems rather a lot to spend on a station which has a very limited life left. This of course is true — to say nothing of the contractors who reportedly turned up at the same headquarters one recent sunny morning and proceeded to remove the beading from the four glazed panels of the entrance doors. Upon hearing the din of two sets of hammers and chisels banging away for about two hours, a somewhat frustrated officer decided to investigate and was proudly shown the official order to replace the glass with toughened glass — presumably for safety reasons. Very commendable he thought! Obviously the County have our welfare at heart. "But wait a minute", says he. "I thought this glass was replaced with toughened a couple of years ago?" Can't be mate" said the glazier, and he proceeded to demonstrate with his hammer. "Blimey you're right — but I'll have to replace this one now" 'cos I've cracked it." Oh dear!.

MOTORING

Rover 213S



THE ageing Peugeot 104 was starting to tire and I found myself in the situation we all have been in or will be, of finding a replacement. I wanted a small to medium car suitable for regular journeys in comfort to Norfolk, where I visit my family, but economical to run in town.

My choice narrowed to Ford Escort, Nissan Sunny, Renault 9 or Peugeot 309. For six weeks I looked at various secondhand models and none impressed me although all were suitable but they did not feel right. One day by accident I sat in a Rover 216 and it immediately felt right. The Rover was not on my original list of vehicles for consideration but after more research I chose the Rover 213S.

The model I bought was eight months old with 10,000 miles on the clock and so far in six months of ownership and 8,000 miles later, no repairs have been necessary. With a length of 4.15 metres and weighing 900 Kgs, it is not a large car but there is plenty of room for four adults. The rear seats are comfortable, the front seats superb and with fabric upholstery long journeys can be accomplished without fatigue. As a family car it is ideal, having seat belts on all seats and a lap strap for the third rear seat passenger.

The 1300 cc Honda engine and gearbox are well matched. The car can be driven quickly using the engine's full performance through the super-smooth gearbox. More sedate travel can be obtained by using higher gears without protest from the engine and fifth gear cruising at 70 mph, only

3,200 rpm, shows on the tachometer.

Using 2 star or cheaper unleaded petrol, the 213 delivers just over 40 mpg on fast motorway work and just under 40 mpg around town. Driving for economy and not exceeding 60 mph, I have achieved just over 50 mpg. The only fluid level apart from petrol I have topped up between service intervals is the screen wash.

Servicing every 6,000 miles is simplicity itself with everything under the bonnet accessible. More major jobs such as clutch, engine or gearbox overhaul should be fairly straightforward and within the capabilities of a good D.I.Y. person with reasonable tools.

With disc brakes fitted at the front and drums on the rear, assisted very progressive and with a positive feel. Steering is light yet positive and with front wheel drive, the car handles well.

However, the front suspension can be upset and wheel spin induced if excessive acceleration in a low gear is attempted, particularly on wet roads. Side winds have no effect on the car at all and passing trucks at speed on the motorway, no steering correction is required.

The instruments are well laid out and easy to read with warning lights provided for all essential systems. A six speaker stereo radio-cassette player, reclining seats, adjustable steering column, plush carpets and Rover door plates give a feeling of luxury. Positive steering, excellent brakes and good road holding gives a feeling of security normally found in more expensive cars.

The combination of Honda reliability, Rover styling and finish, gives me the impression the car will serve me well for many years.

Digesting the Dangers of Hazardous Goods

EMERGENCY services are demanding a tightening of controls on all vehicles carrying hazardous loads after Police and Firefighters were injured by corrosive chemicals leaking from a crashed transit van in Cleveland. The chemical, used for cleaning stonework, was carried in an unmarked van driven by employees of a cleaning company.

Surprisingly, this van was within the law, which says that up to 500 kilogrammes of the most dangerous chemicals can be carried without the need to mark a vehicle. Smaller operators therefore are escaping the legislative net.

This is no consolation for emergency services attending an accident on a dark night, when the estate car or van carrying amorphous drums is overturned and leaking liquid spills on to the road.

In an attempt to make the roads safer for everyone, the Freight Transport Association (FTA) staff have spent the last year training over 1,000 drivers who carry dangerous substances. Because of the amount of interest in this subject, FTA has now published the first of its Hazardous Goods Digests. Subjects covered in the publication will be anything of practical day-to-day relevance on

the movement, packaging, storage and handling of dangerous goods. The Digest will cover transport of hazardous loads by land, sea or air, at home and abroad, whether the goods are in tankers or packages.

Additionally, the Digest will review new and proposed legislation received in documents from the various regulatory agencies. It is hoped to produce the Hazardous Goods Digest about three times a year, free to FTA members.

“Spot the Incident” Competition

THERE was good response to the competition featured in the last edition of ‘NOVA’, but it seems to have defeated everyone.

Green Watch at C5 had the highest score with 11 correct entries.

The competition is now closed but check out the next edition as it will return by popular demand.

The correct answers are:—

- A. Beasley Road, Southville.
- B. Station Road, Yate.
- C. Camelford Road, Greenbank.
- D. Regent Street, Kingswood.
- E. Portway.
- F. M5.
- G. Cannons Road, Canons Marsh.
- H. Longford Avenue, Southmead.
- I. Shell, Avonmouth.
- J. Pendennis Road, Downend.
- K. M4.
- L. Orchard Road, Kingswood.
- M. Birnbeck Island, Weston-Super-Mare.
- N. Avonmouth Dock.

THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS TO MAKE
SURE THE HANDBRAKE IS ON BEFORE
LEAVING THE CARI!!



"C71 10-3 EAST MANOR - F..... HELL IS THAT MY CARI!!"